



Nightingale Mountains Herd Management Area Pershing County, Nevada

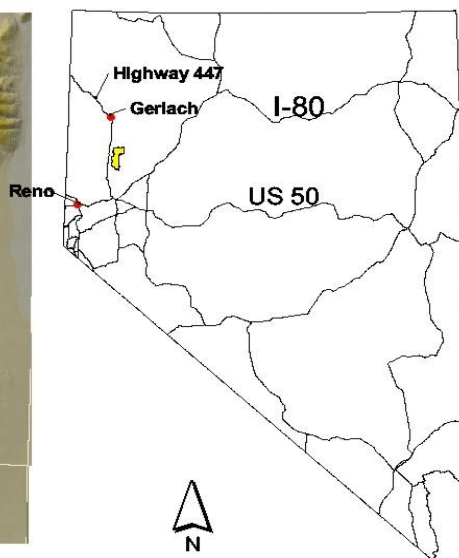
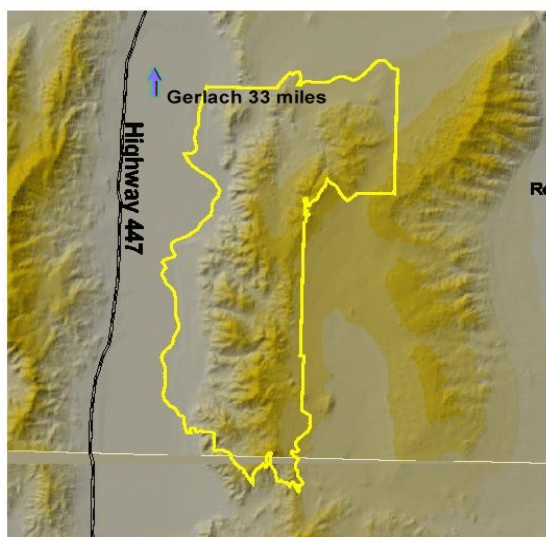


Location/Habitat

The Nightingale Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in western Pershing County, approximately 50 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada. The HMA contains approximately 76,019 acres of unfenced public and private lands. The terrain in the area consists of north-south trending mountains separated by broad valleys. Elevations within the HMA range from 4,800 feet along the valley floor to 6,584 feet. Climate is characterized by warm dry days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 4 to 6 inches at lower elevations to approximately 8 inches at higher elevations. The area is also utilized by domestic livestock and numerous wildlife species. Typical wildlife species found in the area include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, chukar partridge, coyote, and various rodents.

Vegetation

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities at lower elevations to big sagebrush/grass communities at upper elevations. Typical species in the salt desert shrub community includes shadscale, bud sage, winterfat, black greasewood, Indian ricegrass, squirreltail and desert needlegrass. Species typical of the sagebrush/grass communities include low sage, Wyoming sagebrush, desert peach, rabbitbrush, needlegrass, basin wildrye, squirreltail, Indian paintbrush and phlox.



Herd Description

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 47 to 63 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the management range. Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern; however, there are also quite a few roan and dun horses. It is not possible to provide any specific information on parentage of wild horses found in the area.